

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Lyons, Troy[lyons.troy@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]  
**From:** Wilcox, Jahan  
**Sent:** Wed 11/8/2017 12:12:37 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Hey Jillian -

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Melchior, Jillian" <jillian.melchior@wsj.com>  
**Date:** November 7, 2017 at 5:05:47 PM EST  
**To:** "Wilcox, Jahan" <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Hey Jillian -

Hi, Jahan,  
Thanks for sending this my way. I'm out on a training thing today, but I'll be back in the office tomorrow. I will take a look at this and talk with the editors.

Kind regards,  
Jillian

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On Tue, Nov 7, 2017 at 3:46 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)> wrote:

**On background without attribution**, President Trump has nominated Dr. Michael Dourson to head EPA's chemical and pesticides office. Dourson was previously a professor at the University of Cincinnati and before that he spent 15 years at the EPA where he won numerous awards at the agency. From the moment he was nominated, Democrats have been firmly against Dourson, because they want to defeat a Trump nominee. During his committee hearing, EPW Ranking Member Tom Carper didn't question his qualifications, opting instead to take a character-shot at him by questioning his heart. Additionally, Udall, Blumenthal and of course the New York Times have unfairly taken shots at Dourson.

If Democrats and the New York Times want to move conversation towards Dourson's character then they should look at WCPO-TV in Cincinnati who reported on **Dr. Dourson's pro-bono work that saved children, dogs and other animals**. Because as an independent toxicologist, Dourson discovered a family's home in northern

Kentucky had harmful levels of airborne hydrogen sulfide, that was coming from their septic system – again he did this for pro-bono.

•**Dr. Douson's Pro-Bono At TERA Found That A Septic System Was Releasing Harmful Levels Of Airbone Hydrogen Sulfide:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epwdtcl-Zmk&feature=youtu.be> (Watch At The 2:04 Mark).

Also yesterday, the Bay-area law firm of Bowles and Verna praised Dourson for his work to identify the problem regarding 130 families who reside near a San Francisco rail line. Specifically, speaking Dourson's work resulted in a significant settlement between the 130 families/homes that were affected by mistake from the railroad company.

•**Dourson Helped 130 Bay Area Families Reach A Settle Due To Pollution Committed By A Railroad Company.** "My experience with Dr. Dourson dates back a few years when I was pursuing a lawsuit in California. In my case, 130 homes in an area outside the San Francisco were affected by TCE from a nearby rail line. When I began looking for an expert witness, I was quickly referred to Dr. Dourson as having the necessary background and experience in this area through his prior experience, as well as his work at the University of Cincinnati and through his non-profit organization, TERA. In my case, and for the 130 homeowners and families involved, Dr. Douson, provided necessary expert testimony demonstrating the risks and effects of TCE contamination to the properties involved and their occupants. Dr. Dourson's work resulted in significant settlements with the railroad and related property owners due to the risk inherent in exposure to the TCE vapors." (Richard Bowles, [Letter To Senate EPW Committee](#), 11/07/17)

Since Carper and others have decided to make this fight over President Trump's nominee over character, not qualifications, curious if you would be interested in writing that Dr. Douson literally provided pro-bono work to identity why dogs were dying and children were getting sick at a home in Northern Kentucky and provided work that led to a settlement between from a railroad company that was adversely affecting 130 homes/families near San Francisco.

If you can let me know if you are interested in writing about this (and I understand gubernatorial race is the big item at the current moment) but might be something to write about later this week.

Jahan

## ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND RESEARCH ...

**Michael Dorson spent 15 years at the EPA and numbers awards while at the agency.** “Michael Dourson is Professor in the Risk Science Center (formerly the Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment Center) at the University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine. He also founded and led the nonprofit Center’s predecessor of 21 years, also called TERA. Prior to directing TERA, he worked for 15 years in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in numerous leadership positions. He has won several awards including 4 bronze medals at EPA, the Arnold J. Lehman award from the Society of Toxicology, and the International Achievement Award by the International Society of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology. He has also been elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences and as a Fellow for the Society for Risk Analysis. Dr. Dourson has co-published more than 150 papers on risk assessment methods or chemical-specific analyses. He has co-authored well over 100 government risk assessment documents, many of them risk assessment guidance texts. He has made over 150 invited presentations to a variety of organizations, and has chaired over 150 sessions at scientific meetings and independent peer reviews. He has been elected to multiple officer positions in the American Board of Toxicology (including its President), the Society of Toxicology (including the presidency of 3 specialty sections), the Society for Risk Analysis (including its Secretary), and is the President of the Toxicology Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization with a vision to help our public understand the essentials of toxicology. In addition to numerous appointments on government panels, such as EPA’s Science Advisory Board, he is also a member on the editorial board of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology, Human and Experimental Toxicology and Toxicology Sciences.” (University of Cincinnati, Accessed 11/07/17)

**Democrat Senator Tom Carper questions 'the heart' of Trump EPA nominee.** “A recent confirmation hearing for Trump's nominee to head the EPA's chemical regulatory program seemed to focus less on questions of intelligence and more on questions of the heart. According to Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., at least, the nominee is deficient in that last category. ‘I always care about surrounding myself with people who have a good mind but also a good heart. And there's no question you have a good mind,’ Carper told the nominee. ‘I think what we're hearing from the senators on our side is a question about your heart.’ Carper questions the character of nominee Michael Dourson because he previously did consulting work for chemical companies -- big corporations that would come under his regulation if confirmed. But what started out as a normal line of questioning quickly became an embarrassing poetry reading. ‘I don't mind people saying to me ‘you're dumb,’ Carper told Dourson. ‘I don't like it. But what really hurts me is when they question my heart and there are really serious questions about your heart.’ And then the senior senator from Delaware proceeded to quote at length from ‘poetess,’ Maya Angelou.” ([The Washington Examiner](#), 10/06/17)

**Despite helping families in San Francisco and help dogs and children in Northern Kentucky, Democrat Senator Tom Udall and Richard Blumenthal falsely paint Dourson as being anti-health and anti-children.** “Sens. Tom Udall, D-N.M., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., rallied chemical exposure victims and public health advocates on Tuesday to oppose President Donald Trump’s nominee to become the nation’s top chemical regulator. ... ‘Instead of draining the swamp, [Trump] has filled it up with some of the swampiest creatures ever. And it keeps getting scarier — Michael Dourson might be the worst yet,’ Udall said. ‘Dr. Dourson has made a career of creating junk science for industry.’ ‘We need someone who’s going to be a watchdog, not a lapdog for the special-interest chemical industry and other producers of contaminants and substances that can literally kill people, or stunt the growth of children, or make people sick,’ Blumenthal said.” ([NBC News](#), 10/03/17)

**Chemical Industry Ally Faces Critics in Bid for Top E.P.A. Post.** “The scientist nominated to head the federal government’s chemical regulatory program has spent much of his career helping businesses fight restrictions on the use of potentially toxic compounds in consumer goods. That record is expected to figure prominently in a Senate confirmation hearing for the scientist, Michael L. Dourson, who critics say is too closely tied to the chemical industry to be its chief regulator. The source of the concern is a consulting group that Mr. Dourson founded in 1995, which has been paid by chemical companies for research and reports that frequently downplayed the health risks posed by their compounds.” ([The New York Times](#), 09/19/17)

**Samuel M. Cohen, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pathology and Microbiology Havlik-Wall Professor of Oncology University of Nebraska Medical Center:** “Dr. Dourson is an outstanding, hard-working scientist with a distinguished record in toxicology and risk assessment... He is widely recognized as a leader in the field of risk assessment... Dr. Dourson is well suited for the position of Assistant Administrator for the EPA given his long track record of bringing together individuals from academia, industry, and government regulatory agencies to work together.” ([EPA Press Release](#), 10/25/17)

**Jay I. Goodman, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Michigan State University:** “Dr. Dourson has pursued a very successful career track centered around advancing science-based safety/risk assessment of chemicals... It is without reservation that I recommend Dr. Dourson with my highest level of enthusiasm with regard to his scientific and communication skills, and as an individual of character and integrity.” ([EPA Press Release](#), 10/25/17)

**Dr. Gio Batta Gori, Editor-in-Chief, Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology, an international journal:** “Dr. Dourson is an outstanding scientist whose career in toxicology spans nearly forty years, the early half of which with the EPA itself in critical positions of science, policy and administration. Dr. Dourson would bring an unparalleled breadth of experience and savvy to this position, and is ready to run full speed from the start. Dr. Dourson has a can do and winning temperament that inspires confidence, and is well known as an engaging and skillful negotiator. I wholeheartedly endorse his nomination.” ([EPA Press Release](#), 10/25/17)

**Kendall B. Wallace, Ph.D., DABT, ATS, Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, University of Minnesota:** “I find Dr. Dourson to be exceptionally pleasant to work with. He is not only a wealthy resource of scientific information and professional networking, but he also adds thoughtful and challenging perspective to the discussions... Dr. Dourson is one of the first persons I turn to when in need of thoughtful opinion and collegial discussion of issues relating to risk assessment science.” ([EPA Press Release](#), 10/25/17)

**The Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D., President, Concordia College, New York:** “My primary context for knowing Michael is at a Christian retreat center where I lecture each summer. He and Martha Dourson (his wife, a lawyer), are annual attendees. For years, Michael’s judicious integration of faith and the sciences has struck me as impressive as it is rare. Far too often the proposal of a relationship between science and religion is viewed with incompatibility at best or with inimicality at worst. Not with Dr. Dourson. I recall a lecture of mine in which he served up a delight-inducing response to some point of my talk which accomplished precisely the opposite. While I’m unable to recall the precise, technical genealogy of his commentary, I cannot ever forget the captivated looks of fascination painted on the faces of those who listened to him, their deepened enchantment and marveled appreciation for the intricate wonder of the environment. This anecdote could be repeated from numerous casual conversations among friends of Michael. In short, kudos to you for choosing wisely and well. Best of blessings on your critical work for the sake of the creation, its stewardship and our future.” ([EPA Press Release](#), 10/25/17)

**Oliver Kroner, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Cincinnati, Office of Environment and Sustainability:** “I wanted to share my high esteem for

Michael Dourson, who has been a mentor to me and many other scientists. Dr. Michael Dourson has been a foundational thinker in the protection of human health from chemical exposure. He has been a tireless champion of science, and the role of science to help quantify risk and uncertainty. His research is internationally renowned, and is likely responsible for protecting, if not saving, an uncountable number of lives around the world.” ([EPA Press Release](#), 10/25/17)

**Chip May, Executive Director, Camp Arcadia:** “I am the executive director of Camp Arcadia, a Christian family camp/resort in Northwest Michigan and I have had the privilege of knowing Mike for at least the past 15 years. My family and I consider Mike and his family the closest of friends. They have been passionate supporters of our ministry over the years and have helped to lead it as well. Mike chaired a beach erosion peer review study about 12 years ago. His professionalism and his ability to work with others well allowed him to deal with a very contentious issue at our camp successfully. Mike listens well, learns from others, and is able to work with people with different views. I highly recommend Mike for this position.” ([EPA Press Release](#), 10/25/17)

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